

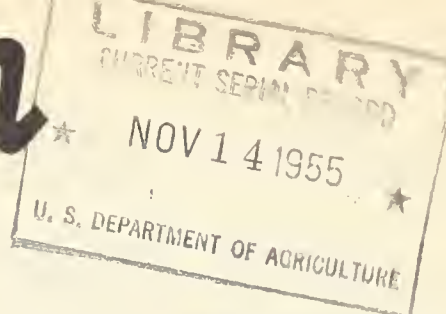
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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY JULY 25, 1955

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

U. S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED  
EXPORTS REMAIN AT HIGH LEVEL

U. S. exports of grass and legume seeds during May continued at a high level and were 71 percent above May 1954, although there was a normal seasonal decline from the preceding month. The 1954-55 total through May is 96.6 percent above the same period for the preceding year.

U. S. EXPORTS: Grass and legume seeds, May 1955;  
with comparisons

Kind of seed	May		July 1, 1953 to May 31, 1954	July 1, 1954 to May 31, 1955
	1954	1955		
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Alfalfa.....	19	228	9,291	10,573
Alsike.....	0	0	2,722	532
Other clover.....	5	18	7,907	10,033
Fescue.....	70	15	1,213	1,543
Kentucky bluegrass;	0	1	259	1,071
Orchard grass.....	20	7	265	212
Redtop.....	0	1	358	421
Timothy.....	4	378	502	1,738
Other grasses.....	372	190	2,679	23,415
Total.....	490	838	25,196	49,538

Compiled from Bureau of the Census statistics.

#### FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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WEATHER UNFAVORABLY AFFECTS  
DANISH SEED CROP PROSPECTS

Following a comparatively long and severe winter and a cold and delayed spring, Danish agronomists are of the opinion that forage seed crops fared relatively well but that up to half of some of the vegetable seed crops sown in 1954 for harvest in 1955 were lost. It is also believed that remaining crops of vegetable seed have not, in general, shown good growth and development; according to Sherwood O. Berg, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Copenhagen.

Most seed crops sown during 1954 for harvest in 1955 developed satisfactorily during the fall of 1954. Intermittent thaws and frosts in February, particularly in areas with only a slight coverage of snow, caused injury to some plantings. However, sunny weather during the latter part of March and during April and the severe frosts during the nights of this period was the time at which these seed crops were most heavily damaged. Furthermore, the spring, which was almost 3 to 4 weeks late, retarded growth of perennial as well as annual seed crops.

The grass seed crops developed into good stands during the fall of 1954; and as a result, were not injured severely during the winter. Local agronomists report that winter damage to the grass seed was not greater than normal. This means that only about 5 to 10 percent of the grass seed crops were injured and consequently plowed under. However, it was indicated that the winter damage was not uniform for all crops and that a greater area of Italian ryegrass was damaged, primarily due to "snow mould". During the last half of May and during June the grass seed crops have developed satisfactorily.

Last year seed producers were advised to plow under old grass fields as it was expected that last year's high prices would result in a general expansion of areas under grass seeds in 1955; perhaps to such an extent that it might result in gross over-production. It appears that seed growers in general did not follow this advice. It is expected that old areas retained or held over will more than balance the usual reduction or loss in new areas. In addition it has been reported that some seed growers plan to harvest newly planted acreages that normally would not be harvested until 1956.

The clover seeds (red, white, and alsike) seem to have wintered well, although spots with thin or reduced stands are evident in many fields. Seed experts estimate that not more than the normal 15 to 20 percent of the seeded area of the clovers have been winter-killed. Black medic has suffered severely, and approximately 40 percent of the acreage has been lost.

White clover production will probably exceed the output of recent years, as the area contracted for harvest in 1955 totals 17,600 acres compared to the harvested area of 10,000 in 1954. The severe winter-killing of bees is likely to affect adversely the pollination of red clover. (Cont'd. next page.)



It is reported that 30 to 50 percent of the acreage in beet seed was lost. Half the fodder beet acreage has been plowed down as compared with 20 percent of the sugar beet seed crop acreage. The seed crop acreages were considerably larger than the areas harvested in 1954 and there should be sufficient seed for domestic requirements. The mangel beet acreage, which is transplanted, is 3 times larger than the harvested acreage.

Roughly half the fodder crop acreages of rutabagas, turnips, and field carrots were destroyed by frost during the past winter. Areas compared to 1954 have, however, almost doubled. Thus, in spite of winter-killing, the output should be sufficient to meet domestic requirements.

Areas in winter rape are estimated to be about 40 to 45 percent of the 1954 harvested acreage. This reduction, together with the winter damage, indicates a very small 1955 crop.

Approximately half the area in vegetable seed crops planted in 1954 for 1955 harvest has been destroyed. In addition, the remaining half had poor or thin stands. The weather in June, however, was favorable and the out-turn may not be as short as estimated.

Garden carrot seed production does not seem to have suffered so severely as first estimated. Many fields of green cabbage, turnips, kohlrabi, and cabbage suffered the greatest damage, and were plowed under. Prospects for Brussels sprouts seed are poor. Parsnip and parsley prospects are rated good.

(Editor's Note: Additional details regarding the Danish seed situation are available on request to the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.)

#### EDUCATION CITED AS GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN UPPING SEED QUALITY IN NEW ZEALAND

Education and not regulation has been the guiding principle in building up seed quality in New Zealand, according to a statement by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Holyoake. He added that the Department of Agriculture provided both a seed certification and a seed testing service, and it was significant that neither service was the subject of any legislation.

The Minister said that from time to time he had been asked to introduce compulsory seed testing, but he asked what value that would be when more than 99 percent of New Zealand seeds were tested for purity and germination on a voluntary basis before being marketed.

Certification and seed testing went hand in hand, the one assuring the strain of the seed, the other assuring its purity and ability to germinate. Certified seeds, tested for purity and germination, are the farmer's safeguard against pasture failure. The service is there for farmers to use.

The total production of perennial ryegrass seed had remained fairly constant at just under 20 million pounds a year. Less than 15 percent was certified 20 years ago, and 10 years ago this proportion reached nearly 60 percent. Today it is about 80 percent.

White clover seed production was between 1 and 2 million pounds 10 years ago; but has recently increased to more than 5 million pounds. Twenty years ago 15 percent was certified; and 10 years ago the proportion had increased to 90 percent. In spite of the great increase in total production, the proportion certified had been maintained at that high figure.

The above information is reported by Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington, New Zealand.

#### U. S. RICE EXPORTS INCREASE IN MAY

United States rice exports in May of 1,234,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled were up sharply from 751,000 bags in April and were larger than 1,025,000 bags in May 1954. Of total exports, 1,083,000 bags were rice containing more than 25 percent whole kernels; 129,000 bags were rice containing not more than 25-percent whole kernels; and 22,000 bags were rough rice in terms of milled (34,000 bags of rough rice).

See Table 1, page 87.

During the first 10 months of the 1954-55 marketing year (August-July), exports totaled 7,707,000 bags, or 52 percent of those in the like period of 1953-54. Classification of exports were (in 1,000 bags): milled rice, containing more than 25-percent whole kernels, 6,318 (82 percent of total exports); milled rice, containing not more than 25-percent whole kernels, 962 (12 percent); and rough rice in terms of milled, 427 (6 percent).

See Table 2, page 88.

Rough rice exports in May reflected a downward trend in recent months, with 33,792,000 bags shipped as compared with 65,157,000 bags in May 1954. Total exports of rough rice in the August-May (1954-55) period were down 17 percent from shipments in the comparable months of 1953-54. Although shipments to Canada decreased 29 percent, and those to several other countries were less, rough rice exports to Cuba, Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Colombia were larger than a year earlier.



Table 1--RICE: United States exports to specified countries,  
May 1955, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-May		May	
	1952-53:	1953-54:	1953-54:	1954-55 <sup>2/</sup> :	1954:	1955 <sup>2/</sup> :
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada.....	601:	633:	583:	492	48:	40
British Honduras.....	3:	17:	12:	33	0:	3
British West Indies.....	81:	6:	5:	3	3/	1
Cuba.....	4,876:	4,755:	4,405:	3,205	417:	52
Haiti.....	2:	2:	2:	55	0:	0
Netherlands Antilles.....	41:	53:	47:	34	6:	4
Venezuela.....	86:	215:	180:	84	12:	3/
Colombia.....	3/	314:	62:	201	5:	3/
Other countries.....	13:	32:	27:	29	2:	1
Total.....	5,703:	6,027:	5,323:	4,136	490:	101
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg.....	52:	206:	184:	272	3:	77
Greece.....	3/	11:	6:	5	3/	0
Ireland.....	0:	0:	0:	16	0:	3/
Netherlands.....	0:	12:	12:	13	0:	6
Sweden.....	3/	1:	1:	70	0:	3/
Switzerland.....	38:	57:	52:	49	3/	0
West Germany.....	3/	29:	16:	12	0:	3
Other countries.....	10:	24:	24:	9	1:	0
Total.....	100:	340:	295:	446	4:	86
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia.....	138:	130:	104:	125	9:	2
Ceylon.....	647:	0:	0:	0	0:	0
Indonesia.....	1,100:	0:	0:	0	0:	0
Korea, Republic of.....	4/ 4,631:4/	590:4/	590:	3/	0:	0
Hong Kong.....	179:	0:	0:	3/	0:	0
Japan.....	3,999:	8,538:	8,452:	2,786	497:	1,023
Philippines.....	3/	3/	3/	10	0:	9
Ryukyu Islands.....	616:	0:	0:	0	0:	0
Other countries.....	5:	25:	23:	11	1:	1
Total.....	11,315:	9,283:	9,169:	2,932	507:	1,035
Total Oceania.....	19:	17:	14:	19	0:	1
Liberia.....	22:	67:	45:	157	22:	7
Other Africa.....	3/	6:	4:	9	0:	3
Other.....	- :5/	8:5/	5:5/	8	5/	2:5/ 1
Total World.....	17,159:	15,748:	14,855:	7,707	1,025:	1,234

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings, and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration. 5/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.

Source: Bureau of the Census, except as noted.



Table 2--UNITED STATES: Exports of rough rice, by country of destination, August-May 1955, with comparisons

Country of destination	August-July		August-May		May	
	1952-53	1953-54	1953-54	1954-55	1954	1955 1/
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
<b>North America</b>						
Canada.....	586,284	573,517	544,524	386,876	49,822	23,644
Mexico.....	60	5,940	5,640	1,600	1,200	1,600
Guatemala.....	0	48	48	70	0	0
El Salvador.....	172	523	523	200	0	200
British Honduras.....	0	0	0	270	0	0
Honduras.....	0	606	606	0	0	0
Nicaragua.....	70	280	230	0	0	0
Costa Rica.....	0	297	97	1,100	0	400
Panama, Republic of...	1,624	1,410	710	2,095	175	0
Cuba.....	43,333	153,960	132,945	136,890	13,150	7,585
Jamaica.....	0	254	254	163	0	83
Haiti.....	77	300	0	1,500	0	0
Dominican Republic...	11	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>631,631</b>	<b>737,135</b>	<b>685,577</b>	<b>530,764</b>	<b>64,347</b>	<b>33,512</b>
<b>South America:</b>						
Colombia.....	97	2,244	2,244	5,093	0	0
Venezuela.....	40,933	106,060	106,060	120,504	210	214
Brazil.....	0	0	0	58	0	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>41,030</b>	<b>108,304</b>	<b>108,304</b>	<b>125,655</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>214</b>
Belgium & Luxembourg...	0	265	265	0	0	0
Union of South Africa...	0	600	0	0	0	0
French Morocco.....	0	0	0	66	0	66
Other.....	0	0	2/ 1,120	2/ 64	2/ 600	0
<b>Total world.....</b>	<b>672,661</b>	<b>846,304</b>	<b>795,266</b>	<b>656,549</b>	<b>65,157</b>	<b>33,792</b>

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.

Source: Bureau of Census

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#### CANADA'S INITIAL GRAIN PRICES FOR 1955 ANNOUNCED

The initial price to be paid Canadian growers for 1955-56 grain is set at the same level as at the beginning of 1954-55. The initial price on deliveries of wheat beginning August 1 will; thus, be \$1.40 per bushel in Canadian currency; basis No. 1 Manitoba Northern in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver. Grade spreads are to be established after the quality of the grain is known.

The initial payment to be made for barley delivered to the 1955-56 pool operated by the Canadian Wheat Board is set at 96 cents per bushel (Canadian currency) basis No. 3 C. W. Six-Row in store Fort William-Port Arthur. This is the same initial payment established for 1954-55 but increased March 14, 1955, by 10 cents per bushel for all grades for the remainder of that season.

For oats delivered for the year beginning August 1, 1955, the initial payment is established at 65 cents per bushel basis No. 2 C.W. in store Fort William-Port Arthur. This is the same as the initial rate established for last season; which, like the rate for barley, was increased in March 1955. Effective March 21, the initial payment was increased by 7 cents on all grades.

#### TURKEY HARVESTING LARGE WHEAT CROP

The wheat crop now being harvested in Turkey appears to fall about midway between the crop of 180 million bushels last year and the record outturn of about 240 million bushels for the 2 preceding years. A crop of the size indicated would be, with the exception of those 2 years, the largest recorded for Turkey. The current forecast contrasts with the 1945-49 average of 125 million bushels. An increase of two-thirds in acreage is the principal cause of the increased harvest compared with the average period, though higher yields were also a significant factor.

Preliminary reports indicate a very spotty and irregular harvest. The fringe areas of the great plains have the best outlook; and this is reported as an indication that a greater percentage of the 1955 crop will be hard wheat, which is generally grown in those areas. A substantial surplus of wheat will be available for export during the 1955-56 season if present forecasts materialize.



## THAILAND KAPOK EXPORT : INCREASE

Exports of deseeded kapok fiber from Thailand in 1954 were 2,902,000 pounds, compared with 623,000 in 1953 and 578,000 in 1952, according to a report from Graham S. Quate, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bangkok. In 1954, 1,542,000 pounds were exported to Singapore; 646,000 to the United States; 215,000 to Hong Kong; 163,000 to Japan; 167,000 to the European countries of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany; 30,000 to Australia; and the remaining 39,000 to the Malay States, Hawaii, Pakistan, Union of South Africa, and Penang.

Kapok in Thailand was formerly harvested from trees growing by the roadside, on boundaries, or from scattered growths of natural reproduction. Some systematic planting of trees has been carried out in recent years, but the Thai Department of Agriculture estimates that not more than 8,000 acres of cultivated lands are now devoted to the production of kapok in Thailand.

The extraction rate for kapok produced in Thailand is reported as being 35 percent floss or fiber, 55 percent seeds, and 10 percent center parts or core.

Since the kapok tree is an erratic producer, bearing heavily in some years and not at all in others, it is probable that the unusually heavy exports during 1954 were due to a combination of circumstances, including a good crop year and heavy demand on foreign markets, plus a falling off in demand on local markets because of competition from sponge rubber for use in pillows, cushions, and pads.

Thailand production of kapok has been increasing steadily, but it is likely that the annual average of exports will be somewhat below the 1954 export figure of 2,902,000 pounds for several years. Bangkok exporters of kapok are somewhat handicapped by high over-all freight rates and lack of baling equipment capable of producing tightly compressed bales which have lower shipping costs.

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## ALGERIAN CITRUS PROSPECTS GOOD

A new record Algerian citrus crop in 1955-56 of 11.6 million boxes compared to 10.9 million boxes in 1954-55, is forecast by trade sources. Most of the increase is expected to be in oranges, which accounts for nearly all of the citrus production. The trade bases its forecast on a greater yield per tree and the fact that many trees will begin producing for the first time in 1955-56. Most of the Algerian citrus is normally exported to France.

## RHODESIAN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PRICES AND SALES UP

Sales of Southern Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco at the Salisbury auction markets in the first 16 weeks of the current season (through June 30) totaled 75.6 million pounds, as compared with 69.8 million pounds sold in a similar period last year. The average price of 43.5 pence (50.75 U. S. cents) per pound received thus far in 1955 is about 11 percent above the average of 39.17 pence (45.6 U. S. cents) per pound received in the first 16 weeks of last year. Average prices in recent weeks have increased from the levels prevailing in the first 7 weeks of the season when the average was about 42 pence per pound. This is due primarily to greater demand for the medium and lower grades. It is also believed that the quality of the leaf offered this year is considerably higher than in previous years.

Prices paid for North-Western Rhodesian flue-cured leaf on the Salisbury markets averaged 41.96 pence (48.95 U. S. cents) per pound through June 30 of this year, or 17 percent above the 1954 average for a comparable period. Sales of this leaf have totaled 3.4 million pounds as compared with 3.2 million last year.

Sales of North-Eastern Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco at Salisbury through June 30 amounted to more than 1.1 million pounds, but were less than last year's total for a similar period. Prices received are about 16 percent higher than last year and have averaged 32.59 pence (38.02 U. S. cents) per pound in 1955.

Prices received for flue-cured leaf at the Limbe auctions in Nyasaland through June 30 have averaged 28.13 pence (32.82 U. S. cents) per pound and are 10 percent below the 1954 level. Sales have totaled 3.2 million pounds as compared to almost 2.8 million through June 24 of 1954.

Total sales of flue-cured tobacco in the Central African Federation so far this season have amounted to 83.3 million pounds and have brought an average of about 42.7 pence or almost 50 U. S. cents per pound. Total sales for a comparable period in 1954 were 77.3 million pounds, which sold for an average of about 38.5 pence or 45 U. S. cents per pound.

Up to June 30 the United Kingdom had purchased 39.4 million pounds of Southern Rhodesian flue-cured leaf, or 54 percent of the total, as compared with 40.3 million pounds or almost 58 percent of the total through July 8, 1954. Australian purchases of 6.3 million pounds or 8.6 percent of the total Southern Rhodesian leaf are at approximately the same level as in 1954. Purchases for the Union of South Africa have totaled 3.5 million pounds this year, while almost 4 million pounds have been bought for the local market.



Central African Federation: Sales and average prices received for  
flue-cured tobacco through June 30, 1955 with comparisons

Producing Area	1954 (through July 8)			1955 (through June 30)		
	Quantity	Value	Value	Quantity	Value	Value
	1,000	Pence Per	U.S. Cents	1,000	Pence Per	U.S. Cents
	pounds	pound	Per pound	pounds	pound	Per pound
Southern Rhodesia.....	69,823	39.17	45.60	75,566	43.50	50.75
North-Western Rhod....	3,234	35.85	41.82	3,398	41.96	48.95
North-Eastern Rhod.1/	1,514	27.99	32.66	1,150	32.59	38.02
Nyasaland.....1/	2,766	31.19	36.72	3,174	28.13	32.82

1/ Data for 1954 are for sales through June 24.

JAPAN MONOPOLY OFFICIALS  
VISITING U.S. TOBACCO MARKETS

Two tobacco technicians, Mr. Minoru Kuroda and Mr. Hajime Goto, of the Japan Monopoly Corporation, arrived in the United States on July 12. During the next 6 months these officials will be visiting United States tobacco markets and contacting tobacco dealers for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of leaf tobacco. These officials also expect to visit certain tobacco processing and manufacturing firms during their stay here.

GREECE EXPECTS BUMPER  
TOBACCO CROP

The 1955 crop of Oriental tobacco in Greece is forecast at 175 million pounds from 312,500 acres, according to a report from Print Hudson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Athens. Estimates of both acreage and production are approximately 18 percent above 1954, when almost 149 million pounds were harvested from 265,500 acres. Although weather conditions were somewhat unfavorable early in the season, the situation has improved considerably in recent weeks and the crop is reported to be developing satisfactorily. If the estimated production is obtained, it will exceed the average output in the 1947-51 period by more than 54 percent and will be second only to the 1936 record crop of 178.5 million pounds.

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NEW ZEALAND MEAT EXPORTERS  
SEEK NEW MARKETS

In the first year of free meat marketing New Zealand exporters have probed the markets of the world in an effort to expand trade as much as possible, reports Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. So far, results have been reasonably good but not spectacular.

Nearly 33 million pounds of meat were sent to 20 countries other than Britain between October and May compared with 319 million to the United Kingdom. The proportion sent to markets outside Britain is much higher than it was before the war, when as a rule less than 4.4 million pounds or about 1 percent of total exports found their way to Canada, Germany, Japan, the United States, and various other countries, including Pacific islands. This season the largest buyer has been Russia, which up to the end of April took about 11 million pounds of meat, practically all of it ewe mutton. Canada took nearly 7 million pounds of lamb; and Germany, Italy, and the West Indies were the next most important customers. Continental nations, are taking veal and frozen meat of manufacturing quality. Italy, in particular, is a good customer for veal from small calves.

Canada appears to offer a continuing market for high quality, attractively presented frozen lamb of the heavier weights; provided the shipments arrive in winter and not at the peak of the lamb-killing season.

The United States also offers a limited market for lamb, although in the 6 months to the end of April less than 2 million pounds had been shipped to the States. The West Indies offers a small, steady market as do Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

Exporters do not think New Zealand can ever expect to sell a large proportion of its total exports outside Britain because of its geographic remoteness from most other markets; and the difficulty of getting fast, frequent shipping services to many points throughout the world.

The New Zealand Shipowners' Allotment Committee fixes loading schedules 6 weeks to 2 months ahead of shipment, and many voyages take a month--so 3 months might elapse between time of receipt of an order and the quickest possible delivery date. Even so, there is no doubt that trade to countries other than New Zealand's main customer can be increased if specialized markets are properly cultivated.



U. K. HILL CATTLE  
SUBSIDY RATES UNCHANGED

Owners of cattle grazed on hill lands in the United Kingdom will receive subsidies this year at the same rates as in 1954. The purpose of these payments is to encourage production of feeder cattle and to improve grazing. Payments for cows and bred heifers are equivalent to \$28.00 a head for the year. In addition to the cow subsidy farmers on hill lands receive \$5.60 a head on the other cattle they run.

These subsidies increase returns to cattle producers and decrease prices of meat to consumers.

As of the first of July hill cattle in England and Wales were still showing effects of the severe winter in some districts, but generally they were much improved in condition.

DANISH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS EXPORTS  
TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO BE INCREASED

The new Danish-Czech Trade and Payments Agreements, signed May 26, 1955, to be in effect through May 31, 1956, provides for trade in the amount of about 52 million Danish kroner (\$7.5 million) each way--approximately twice the amount provided in the 1954 agreement. About 37 percent of the total value of the Danish exports to Czechoslovakia are meat and meat products, such as beef and slaughter cattle, pork, and lard.

COSTA RICA AUTHORIZES  
ADDITIONAL CATTLE EXPORTS

The National Production Council of Costa Rica authorized exportation of 1,800 head of cattle during June and July. The cattle were sold through a call of bids to a Colombian firm at the equivalent of about 10 cents per pound, f.a.s. Costa Rica, which was considered to be favorable to local producers.

When these shipments have been made exports since June 25, 1954, when exportations were first authorized, will total about 8,800 head.

## FOREIGN MEAT PACKERS RESUME OPERATIONS IN URUGUAY

Recent action by the Uruguayan Government made it possible for the 3 foreign packers to start killing cattle in early July and to resume exports of frozen and canned corn beef after nearly a year of near shutdown, reports Dale E. Farringer, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo. Planned exports, mostly frozen manufacturing beef and canned corned beef, total around 34 million pounds during the second half of 1955.

One recent decree raises the exchange rate from 2.20 to 2.35 pesos to the dollar for canned meat and meat extract exported after July 1, 1955. The second decree provides for export killing quotas among the 4 leading packers. At present, the government-sponsored Frigorifico Nacional is not operating under quotas. The decree provides for guaranteed prices to export packers, with the government apparently prepared to make up losses if the export prices fall below the guarantee. Settlement of money owed the packers for operation losses during 1954 is still pending.

Resumption of packing operation was too late this year to take advantage of the fall and early winter season marketings when cattle are in best condition. Range pastures have reverted to winter grasses. Most cattle marketed now are thin and of manufacturing types. There is considerable question, because of domestic requirements, whether the 34-million-pound export "target" will actually be shipped.

Uruguay's meat shipments during the current calendar year will be the lowest in at least a decade and may be the lowest on record. Exports during the first 5 months of this year totaled only 7 million pounds of frozen beef and 3.7 million of canned beef. Meat has traditionally been Uruguay's second largest export--ranking next to wool. However, this year, in view of the small exports of meat and the large wheat crop and carry-over, the value of wheat and flour exported may exceed that of meat.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MAY EXEMPT IMPORT DUTIES ON POULTRY FEEDS

Proposed legislation to exempt import poultry grains and feeds from import duties, taxes, and other charges has been approved for consideration by the Dominican Republic's Chamber of Deputies, according to John E. Montel, Agricultural Officer, American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo. Passage is expected before August 1. If the proposal becomes law, it will be in addition to exemptions already granted imports of livestock feeds.



# BRITISH SHIPPING ICE CREAM TO PERSIAN GULF AREAS

A British company is confident that it can supply ice cream from England to any part of the Middle East, as a result of recent successful shipments to the Persian Gulf area.

Valley Creamery Ices, Ltd., Worcester, has evolved a formula, after rigid laboratory tests, that meets Mohammedan dietary requirements and provides a product able to withstand the long cold storage involved. Also, as a result of a personal study by a company official of conditions in the Persian Gulf area, improvements have been made in packaging.

There is a fairly good demand for ice cream in tropical markets, and shipment from distant sources of supply has heretofore been considered impractical.

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# HUNGARY TIGHTENS CONTROL ON SURPLUS WHEAT SALES

A regulation issued by the Hungarian Council of Ministers on July 10 indicates that after farmers have met their fixed compulsory deliveries of bread grains to the State, they are no longer free to market the surplus at higher prices than the prices paid by the Government for compulsory deliveries. Rather, they must sell part of that surplus to the Government. This is in line with a reversal of the somewhat more lenient agricultural policy adopted in Hungary in June 1953, as reported in Foreign Crops and Markets of April 11, 1955.

The new quotas for compulsory sales become a part of the compulsory delivery plan. The new decree thus nullifies the provisions of a decree of September 1953, according to which the compulsory delivery quotas were fixed at an unchanged level for a period of 3 years--January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1956.

Prospects for this year's wheat harvest in Hungary are not good. The new decree, according to the Council of Ministers, has been issued to insure uninterrupted bread supplies for the country. It will be recalled that Hungary, traditionally an exporter of wheat, has become an importer in 1954-55. It is reported that wheat from France has moved to Hungary in very substantial quantities, and that Hungary was negotiating for a purchase of Canadian wheat.

U.S. BEAN IMPORTS HIGH, EXPORTS LOW  
IN FIRST 9 MONTHS OF MARKETING YEAR

U.S. imports of beans in the first 9 months of the current marketing year (Sept. 1954-May 1955) totaled 122,176 bags of 100 pounds, including possibly 30,000 bags of Mung beans. This means that imports of common type beans were about 90,000 bags or the largest in this 9 months for a period of 6 years. It compares with about 35,000 bags (excluding Mung beans) in the corresponding 9 months a year ago and with 50,000 to 250,000 bags in the corresponding periods of most of the years in the past decade.

The foregoing figures are only approximations because Mung beans are not separately classified in United States trade statistics. The estimates which separate Mung beans are based on the following information:

1. Mung beans have been under strict import licensing control in the United States since April 1952 to prevent imports from Communist China.

2. Import licenses issued since April 1952 and other information available indicate that beans from Thailand, Iraq, and Peru (see table opposite page) would be principally Mung beans.

3. In most earlier years United States production of Mung beans was adequate to meet this country's needs without large imports.

Of the estimated 90,000 bags of beans imported in the current 9 months, more than 80,000 bags arrived in May. In that month alone 24,247 bags arrived from Ethiopia, a new source of United States imports and 40,800 bags from Chile, an old source. These undoubtedly were all white beans brought in because of the relatively short harvest of white beans in the United States in 1954.

Assuming normal seasonal movement, imports of beans can be expected to continue at a relatively high level in June, July, and August. These 4 months, May-August, usually are the heavy season of United States bean imports. As much as 40 to 90 percent of total annual imports of beans by this country have entered during these months in the past decade.

While this period coincides with the period of lowest United States import duties on beans and Mung beans, there appears no conclusive proof that duties are the controlling factor, although they have an important bearing. This low-duty period was instituted in 1949, but bean imports were heaviest in May through August, both before and after that date.



Duties in the period May 1 through August 31 are 2.0 cents per pound for Red Kidney beans and 1.5 cents per pound for other classes including Mung beans. During the balance of the year the duty on all classes of beans is 3.0 cents per pound for all countries except Cuba, for which there is a preferential duty of 2.4 cents per pound.

Bean exports in May totaled 53,773 bags for the lowest May in 10 years. The 9 month total of 1.2 million bags was the lowest in 5 years. That total compares with 1.8 million bags in the corresponding period a year ago. Of the 54,000 bags exported in May, Cuba took 33,000 bags, and Mexico 11,000 bags.

BEANS, DRY 1/: Imports into the United States from Specified Countries, Sept.-May 1953-54 and 1954-55

Country of Origin	1953-54	1954-55
--100-Pound Bags--		
Canada.....	13,593	11,149
Peru.....	3,895	4,949
Portugal.....	0	1,310
Italy.....	5,084	2,807
Argentina.....	1,129	922
Japan.....	1,885	1,422
British East Africa.....	200	1,573
Azores.....	0	974
Iraq.....	0	8,136
Thailand.....	1,500	19,828
Netherlands.....	364	1,425
Chile.....	8,593	40,848
Ethiopia.....	0	24,247
Mexico.....	3,326	509
Other.....	905	2,077
Total.....	40,474	122,176

1/ Includes Mung beans,

Compiled from Bureau of the Census records.

EGYPT'S COTTON EXPORTS  
MUCH BELOW PRECEDING YEAR

Egypt's cotton exports during the first 7 months (August-February) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 659,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 24 percent less than exports of 863,000 bales in the corresponding months of 1953-54; according to John Fitzgerald, Second Secretary of the American Embassy, Cairo. France and India were the principal destinations of Egypt's cotton during the period under review; with Italy, West Germany, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom ranking next, in that order.

EGYPT: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;  
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54;  
August-February 1953-54 and 1954-55

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-February	
	Averages		1952	1953	1953	1954
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria.....	1/ 23.7	2/	34.4	24.7	11.9	14.1
Belgium-Luxembourg..	17.8	17.0	21.8	22.8	13.0	13.3
Czechoslovakia.....	49.9	52.5	58.6	52.8	25.3	22.6
France.....	238.7	161.9	291.2	210.3	119.8	85.8
Germany, West.....	147.2	2/	127.6	136.7	82.5	53.5
Hungary.....	18.3	2/	26.8	24.9	15.0	9.5
Italy.....	105.2	163.8	170.1	124.5	78.0	58.0
Netherlands.....	5.5	1/ 39.5	47.2	25.8	14.9	12.9
Poland.....	31.8	16.2	27.2	4.6	2.7	24.1
Rumania.....	3/ 47.7	2/	4.6	8.3	7.9	11.7
Spain.....	25.1	25.4	66.4	41.8	21.9	26.3
Sweden.....	12.8	17.0	17.7	7.9	7.0	2.7
Switzerland.....	71.5	33.4	67.5	67.6	48.3	28.0
United Kingdom.....	592.3	367.5	77.7	206.7	130.5	42.2
Yugoslavia.....	2/	2/	17.6	15.0	10.5	6.1
China.....	24.2	2/	60.9	52.0	12.3	21.9
India.....	98.8	255.8	213.7	217.3	113.9	80.2
Japan.....	143.4	2/	84.6	88.4	58.5	39.8
United States.....	49.5	89.1	84.4	68.9	31.5	33.2
USSR.....	2/	1/ 129.4	104.2	0	0	45.9
Other countries.....	33.9	82.4	123.0	84.0	57.9	27.4
Total.....	1,742.3	1,450.9	1,727.2	1,485.0	863.3	659.2

1/ 3-year average. 2/ If any, included in "Other countries".

3/ 4-year average.

Source: Monthly Summary of the Foreign Trade of Egypt; and official reports.



The decline in exports continued through May 1955, although specific quantities exported to the various countries are not yet available. The decline in exports was reflected in the higher stock figure reported at 839,000 bales on June 8, 1955, or 18 percent higher than the 691,000 bales held a year earlier.

Domestic consumption of cotton was reportedly running a little higher this year, with usage of 277,000 bales in the approximate 9-month period (September 1 to June 8) of the 1954-55 season amounting to 4 percent more than the 265,000 bales consumed in the similar period of the 1953-54 season.

The third official estimate of the 1954-55 crop placed production at 1,598,000 bales or 9 percent above the 1,461,000 bales produced during 1953-54.

The reopening of the Alexandria Cotton Futures Market in September 1955 for dealings in futures contracts starting in December 1955 is expected to improve the cotton trading situation, and provide equilibrium between the Liverpool and Alexandria markets. New Government regulations will be issued to control the market and to allow only the technical speculation necessary for its operation. Extensive speculation had been a factor in suspension of the market in November 1952.

During the transition period, the Egyptian Cotton Commission will continue to purchase all cotton offered until the end of August at prices fixed for the present season's cotton, based on New York futures. For the new crop (1955-56) the Government will guarantee to the grower a minimum level for spot cotton of "Good" grade equal to the purchasing prices fixed at the beginning of the season, as follows:

	<u>Tallaris</u> <u>per kantar</u> <u>(99.05 lbs.)</u>	<u>Equivalent</u> <u>U.S. cents</u> <u>per pound</u>
Ashmouni	55	31.73
Giza	30	34.04
Menoufi	61	35.19
Karnak	65	37.50

The graduated premiums for higher grades and the discounts for lower grades have not yet been determined. Cotton traders reportedly favor the reopening of the market as a return to free trading and freeing of Egyptian cotton prices from their present basing on the New York market.

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BRAZILIAN COTTON EXPORTS  
LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Cotton exports from Brazil during August-April 1954-55 amounted to 639,000 bales (500 pounds gross); down 34 percent from exports of 1,026,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1953-54; according to Winfield C. King, Agricultural Officer; and A. K. Bueno, American Consulate General, Sao Paulo. As in the previous year, principal destinations of Brazilian cotton this year have been Japan, Western Germany, the United Kingdom, and Italy, although sharp declines from the earlier period were noted in exports to all except Japan.

See cotton export table (Brazil) opposite page.

Latest unofficial estimate of the 1954-55 cotton crop for all Brazil is tentatively placed at 1,500,000 bales; or only 2 percent above the 1953-54 crop of 1,465,000 bales. No official estimate of the Sao Paulo crop will be issued this year; but the crop is expected to be considerably below earlier indications. Current estimates of the entire South Brazil crop for 1954-55 (harvested March-June 1955) place production at about 955,000 bales, or 15 percent less than the 1,125,000 bale crop in 1953-54. The 1954-55 crop for North Brazil (harvested July-December 1954) is estimated at 530,000 bales; or about 50 percent higher than the 340,000 bales produced in 1953-54.

Brazil's cotton consumption amounts to approximately 900,000 bales annually, with no expansion of textile mill activity expected in the near future. Cotton stocks on August 1, 1954, were estimated at 1,200,000 bales or about 600,000 bales above normal stock requirements. With approximately 600,000 bales expected to be available for export from the 1954-55 crop, the total export availability for the 1954-55 marketing year would be 1.2 million bales; as compared with actual exports of 1.4 million bales in 1953-54.

Action of the Brazilian Government, effective May 4, 1955, to reduce the value of the Brazilian cruzeiro for cotton export trading from Cr\$37.06 per dollar to Cr\$43.06 per dollar was taken to permit local buyers to pay higher prices to cotton farmers in terms of local currency. The spot price of Type 5 Brazilian cotton in Sao Paulo went up during June to Cr\$470.00 per arroba (33.07 pounds) as compared with the March monthly average price of Cr\$440.00. The equivalent price in terms of United States currency; however, decreased during the period from 35.91 U.S. cents per pound in March (converted at the old rate of Cr\$37.06 per dollar) to 33.01 cents per pound in June (converted at the new rate of Cr\$43.06 per dollar).



BRAZIL: Cotton exports by countries of destination;  
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and  
1953-54; August-April 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-April	
	Averages		1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Canada.....	4.2	16.2	1/	18.8	16.0	3.6
Belgium/Luxembourg..	30.0	70.7	0	53.8	43.6	22.5
Finland.....	2.3	10.2	0	0	0	0
France.....	89.5	64.1	4.3	140.7	94.6	25.9
Germany.....	285.6	.6	4.2	238.5	196.2	122.1
Italy.....	39.3	110.5	0	117.0	91.3	58.9
Netherlands.....	33.3	43.3	0	66.8	39.7	42.2
Poland.....	17.2	49.2	0	2.3	0	8.7
Portugal.....	26.4	11.2	2.1	11.9	11.9	7.1
Spain.....	2.8	136.3	29.9	64.6	41.5	58.7
Sweden.....	5.2	48.5	.5	25.0	22.2	7.6
United Kingdom.....	240.5	336.8	69.3	223.5	172.8	86.4
China.....	81.7	79.2	0	42.1	28.3	28.4
Hong Kong.....	0	1.4	0	62.8	40.0	18.8
India.....	0	7.5	0	1.8	1.0	0
Japan.....	241.7	.9	24.9	246.8	178.1	159.5
Chile.....	0	11.5	8.7	9.4	5.1	1.6
Colombia.....	.7	17.8	0	1.6	1.3	.4
Uruguay.....	0	7.2	.7	15.7	12.8	10.8
Australia.....	0	25.9	0	9.2	2.1	1.2
Other countries.....	11.7	67.1	0	59.4	27.0	24.4
Total.....	1,112.1	1,116.1	144.6	1,411.7	1,025.5	688.8

1/ Less than 50 bales.

Compiled from Comercio Exterior do Brazil: Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

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CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION; IMPORTS...(See top p. 106).

## PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS UP IN JUNE

Philippine exports of copra and coconut oil in June increased 10 and 57 percent, respectively, from the preceding month, according to USDA E. W. Hallowell, Agricultural Economist, American Embassy, Manila. Copra exports alone, totaling 60,194 long tons, were 11 percent less than the June 1954 tonnage. However, cumulative shipments during January-June amounted to 344,032 tons or 6 percent more than the 324,633 tons exported in the comparable period of 1954.

Table 1--PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Copra exports, average 1935-39,  
annual 1952-54 and January-June 1954-55  
(Long tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/ 2/	January-June	
					1954 1/	1955 1/
<u>America:</u>						
U.S. and territories	206,801	289,221	308,887	292,482	139,919	151,678
Canada.....	0	25,900	10,250	18,425	10,675	2,000
Colombia.....	0	28,731	20,699	32,562	5,834	30,803
Mexico.....	7,260	0	0	0	0	0
Panama.....	0	1,487	0	1,019	1,019	200
Venezuela.....	0	17,240	20,678	28,032	11,363	10,068
<u>Africa:</u>						
Egypt.....	1,271	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa.....	0	102	0	0	3,100	3,000
<u>Asia:</u>						
Japan.....	1,047	19,980	0	0	0	0
Israel.....	0	23,580	12,300	3,300	0	5,300
<u>Europe:</u>						
Belgium.....	10	62,880	26,011	16,200	11,000	1,000
Denmark.....	6,025	24,900	38,850	29,200	12,100	9,400
France.....	24,589	3,700	0	0	0	0
Western Germany.....	3/ 7,309	10,990	20,307	41,000	17,750	9,000
Italy.....	4,079	23,400	23,700	15,750	8,500	6,500
Netherlands.....	28,415	61,550	71,091	155,855	61,360	64,050
Norway.....	91	11,275	13,127	18,569	9,500	8,500
Sweden.....	4,163	7,320	2,450	6,500	0	9,000
Switzerland.....	0	800	1,000	0	0	0
United Kingdom.....	80	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Others.....</u>	<u>8,698</u>	<u>38,699</u>	<u>22,917</u>	<u>99,108</u>	<u>32,513</u>	<u>33,533</u>
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>299,838</u>	<u>651,755</u>	<u>592,267</u>	<u>758,002</u>	<u>324,633</u>	<u>344,032</u>
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Total Germany						

Source: Data for 1935-39 from Bureau of the Census and Statistics.  
Data for 1952-55 from Philippine Trade.



The country distribution of exports in June was as follows: United States --26,652 (Pacific--20,938, Atlantic--2,194, and Gulf--3,520); Belgium--500; Denmark--1,000; Germany--2,000; the Netherlands--11,500; Norway--1,000; Sweden--2,000; Lebanon--200; Israel--1,000; Europe unspecified--5,980; Colombia--2,859; Venezuela--2,303; Panama Canal Zone--200; and South America unspecified--3,000 tons.

June exports of coconut oil amounted to 7,615 tons compared with 4,852 tons in May. The January-June aggregate was 33,574 tons against 27,783 tons in 1954. The entire quantity of oil shipped in June was sent to the United States (Atlantic--7,045 and Pacific--570 tons).

Table 2--PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Coconut oil exports, average 1935-39, annual 1952-54 and January-June 1954-55  
(Long tons)

Country	Average	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/	January-June	
	1935-39				1954 1/	1955 1/
<u>America:</u>						
United States.....	155,358	55,942	56,734	64,294	27,388	33,274
Canada.....	1,885	-	-	-	-	-
Cuba.....	290	-	-	300	-	300
<u>Africa:</u>						
South Africa.....	-	5,492	255	388	145	-
<u>Asia:</u>						
China.....	392	433	-	-	-	-
India.....	-	305	-	-	-	-
<u>Europe:</u>						
Western Germany...2/	660	354	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	9	4,016	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	727	5,041	3/ 486	-	-	-
Others:.....	2,426	4/ 7,880	5/ 1,114	750	250	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>161,747</u>	<u>79,463</u>	<u>58,589</u>	<u>65,732</u>	<u>27,783</u>	<u>33,574</u>
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Including Belgium. 4/ Includes 3,065 to Belgium. 5/ West Indies--582, Colombia--532.						

Source: Data for 1935-39 from Bureau of the Census and Statistics.  
Data for 1952-55 from Philippine Trade.

On a copra equivalent basis, exports of copra and coconut oil January through June of this year totaled 397,324 tons, or 8 percent more than the 368,733 tons exported in the same months of 1954.

The copra export price as of mid-July was \$157.50 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices ranged from 24.50 to 28.00 pesos per 100 kilos (\$124.47 to \$142.25 per long ton) resecada, Manila and producing areas.

WEST GERMAN DEPENDENCE ON  
FATS AND OILS IMPORTS INCREASING

West German dependence on imports of fats, oils, and oilseeds was further expanded in 1954, reports John J. Haggerty, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bonn. Approximately 57 percent of the 1,378,000 short tons, pure fat equivalent, of edible fats and oils consumed last year came from foreign sources, against 54 percent of 1,306,000 tons in 1953.

Total consumption of industrial fats and oils in Western Germany in 1954 was reported at 277,000 tons, raw product weight, 95 percent of which was imported. In 1953, 92 percent of the 248,000 tons of industrial fats and oils consumed came from foreign sources. (In the third paragraph of the article "West Germany's Fat Requirements Increasing," Foreign Crops and Markets of June 20, 1955, the percentage of industrial fats derived from imports in 1953 was incorrectly given as much lower.)

EGYPT ISSUES NEW REGULATIONS ON  
MANUFACTURE AND TRADE OF EDIBLE FATS, OILS

Egypt's Council of Ministers recently announced new regulations pertaining to the manufacture and trade of edible fats and oils. The new Order, published in Official Gazette No. 39, of May 16, 1955, and effective July 27, 1955, replaces the Order of April 17, 1954.

A comparison of the new Order with the one it replaces indicates that apart from a different arrangement of the various specifications, the principal differences appear to be in the parts relating to hydrogenated vegetable oils.

The new regulations make a distinction between hydrogenated oils and fats to be consumed directly as foodstuffs and those for mixing with non-hydrogenated oils or fats intended for human consumption. The melting point of the first type must not exceed 40 degrees Centigrade. However, plants may produce hydrogenated vegetable oils with a higher melting point if these are marked as being intended for the foodstuffs industries with the object of mixing them with non-hydrogenated oils or fats, and provided that in any case the melting point of the end product intended for consumption not exceed 40 degrees centigrade.



CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION  
AND IMPORTS CONTINUE AT HIGHER RATE

Cotton mill consumption in Canada during June 1955 amounted to 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) dropping slightly from the May rate of 33,000 bales, but well above consumption of 23,000 bales in June 1954. Consumption for the 11-month period (August-June) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 335,000 bales or 17 percent above the comparable total for August-June 1953-54.

Canadian cotton imports during the 9 months August-April 1954-55 amounted to 265,000 bales, 29 percent higher than imports of 205,000 bales in the similar period of 1953-54. Nearly all of Canada's cotton this year is of United States origin with small quantities from Mexico and Brazil. Quantities imported from the principal sources in the current period with comparable figures for 1953-54 in parentheses were as follows: United States 252,000 bales (167,000); Mexico 6,000 (4,000); Brazil 4,000 (15,000).

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